

Remarks

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 are currently pending in this application.

Based on the amendment above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and passage to issue.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaegers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,934) in view of Amatangelo (U.S. Patent No. 4,948,039), Westlake, Sr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,902,365), and Weber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,940,629).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to claim a hinge formed by cutting only a narrow incision as discussed with the Examiner on August 28, 2002.

Applicants amended claim 15 to include all the limitations of claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-7 and claims 10-14, which depend therefrom, and claim 15 are patentable over the cited combination of art.

Applicants believe that the Office Action of May 3, 2002 has been fully responded to and that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request passage to issue.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney if it would advance prosecution of the case.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the Petition fee of \$110 and any additional fees as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978 -- a duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment